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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Andorra, Argentina, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Peru, South Africa and Switzerland: draft resolution

International Year of Mountains, 2002

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, in which it proclaimed 2002 as the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolution 55/189 of 20 December 2000,

Recognizing chapter 13 of Agenda 21[1] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] in particular paragraph 40 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable mountain development,

Recognizing also the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the committed support of twenty-nine countries, sixteen intergovernmental organizations and sixteen organizations from the major groups, as a very promising approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable mountain development,

Taking note of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (A/CONF.199/20), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report transmitted by the Secretary-General on the International Year of Mountains, 2002;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the success achieved during the International Year of Mountains, which catalysed a strengthened interest for sustainable development and poverty eradication in mountain regions at all levels from the global, regional and subregional levels, at which nine major international meetings were held, in Bhutan, Ecuador, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Peru and Switzerland, to the national and local levels, at which innumerable activities and initiatives were undertaken, and recommends that the experience gained during the Year be valued in the context of an appropriate follow-up;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the constructive role played by the national committees for the International Year of Mountains established in seventy-four countries, as well as the commitment demonstrated by thousands of individuals, civil society and academic institutions, intergovernmental bodies and Governments;

4. *Also notes with appreciation* the efficient discharge by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of its role as the task manager for the International Year of Mountains, as well as the valuable contributions made by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund;

5. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility and all relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations and the private sector, to provide support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects resulting from the International Year of Mountains;

6. *Invites* all interested parties to consider joining the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions;

7. *Notes* that a consultative process is to be initiated with all stakeholders in the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, in particular donor countries, with a view to determining the best options for further assisting all stakeholders in the implementation of the Partnership, including through the establishment of a secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and financed through existing resources and additional voluntary contributions;

8. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to continue their constructive collaboration in the context of the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains, taking into account the inter-agency working group on mountains and references made in this regard in section 6 of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, with a view to further promoting and implementing sustainable mountain development;

9. *Underlines* that mountains provide freshwater for more than one half of humanity and, in this connection, encourages the highest possible synergy between the follow-up to the International Year of Mountains and the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, including in the domain of freshwater conservation;

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[3] A/57/188.

10. *Decides* to designate 11 December as International Mountain Day, as from 11 December 2003, and encourages the international community to organize on this day events at all levels to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the achievements of the International Year of Mountains, with a special focus on lessons learned and on policy recommendations for sustainable mountain development, under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".